

2006

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

PRELIMINARY
(As of May 16, 2006)



CT General Assembly

Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

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PCSW 2006 Legislative Priorities

The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women provides information, research and analysis to elected officials and the public regarding issues affecting the status of women. The following were our priority issues for the 2006 legislative session.

Violence Against Women

Trafficking of Women and Children – Support a proposal to define human trafficking in state criminal code, provide victim assistance, and increase interagency cooperation, data collection, and training.

Health Care for Survivors of Sexual Assault - Support proposals to ensure access to emergency contraception for survivors of sexual assault who may seek care in emergency departments.

Economic Security and Pay Equity

Education and Training for Welfare Recipients – Support proposals to increase basic education programs and the number of TFA recipients who can satisfy work requirements through participation in educational activities directed toward the attainment of a high school diploma or GED.

Balancing Work and Family - Support proposals to provide paid sick days, leave time or family leave insurance so that workers can balance work and family responsibilities.

Safety Net Services and Time Limits – Support proposals to increase the number of time limit extensions and expand eligibility for safety net services so that families who lose benefits due to time limits are also eligible for services.

Work Exemptions for People with Disabilities - Support proposals to exempt people with disabilities, including learning disabilities, from TFA work requirements.

Affordable Housing – Support proposals to increase the number of affordable housing units and provide programs and services to prevent homelessness.

Tax Reform to Assist Low-Income Families – Support tax proposals such as a state Earned Income Tax Credit to support the economic self-sufficiency of low-income families.

Women and Business Development

Microenterprises – Support proposals to define the unique needs of very small businesses and find solutions that take into consideration their size and revenues.

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Women and Health Care

Medicaid – Support proposals to repeal authorization for co-pays and premiums for adults under HUSKY A with incomes between 100% and 150% of the federal poverty level and to reduce barriers to enrollment and retention.

Gender Appropriate Behavioral/Mental Health Services – Support a proposal to require state funded programs to provide gender-appropriate treatment services for women and girls with behavioral and mental health needs.

State Administered General Assistance (SAGA) – Support efforts to restore funding for certain services under SAGA such as medically necessary transportation and also to ensure that adequate funding is available to serve the needs of all eligible adults.

Nutrition and Physical Activity - Support proposals that address the need for nutritional education and services in an effort to address preventable health conditions, particularly eating disorders and obesity.

Preferred Drug Lists – Support measures to establish consumer protections for people covered under preferred drug lists, e.g. guaranteed provision of temporary supplies and expedited approval procedures.

Home-Based Care – Support efforts to expand home-based care under Medicaid as an alternative to nursing home care through a federal waiver.

Cancer Detection and Treatment – Support proposals to increase funding and expand access to early breast, cervical and ovarian detection services and treatment.

Family Law

Health Benefits – Support measures to allow an employee to continue to cover an ex-spouse at the family coverage rate if ordered or agreed upon in a divorce agreement.

Criminal Justice and Corrections

Reforms in Juvenile Justice Programs for Girls - Support continuing efforts to provide a continuum of community-based services designed to prevent the incarceration of female juvenile status offenders and delinquents.

Budget Matters

Childcare – Restore full funding for Care4Kids program to provide quality early care and education for children and allow low-income parents to remain on the job.

Smoking Prevention and Cessation Programs – Support proposals to appropriate funds for Medicaid coverage of smoking prevention and cessation programs.

Legislative Update 2006

The following are brief summaries of selected bills and budget items that the PCSW monitored because of their potential impact on the status of women and girls.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

PA 06-43, An Act Concerning Trafficking In Persons (sS.B. 153)

PASSED, effective July 1, 2006

This law creates a criminal statute to categorize trafficking in persons as a class B felony under state law. It also continues the Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons for another year, increases membership to include the Judicial Branch and the Victim Advocate, and expands the scope of issues that the task force must address to include developing recommendations to address access to rights, benefits and services for victims of trafficking. Finally, it provides funding to the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) and the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) to develop a training program and make it available to the Division of State Police, the Chief State's Attorney, local police departments and community organizations; to the Division of Criminal Justice to provide protective services; and, to the Office of Victim (OVS) Services for the purposes of contracting with community providers for services to victims.

Appropriations for Anti-Trafficking Activities

Agency	FY 07
PCSW	25, 000
POST	50,000
Division of Criminal Justice	75,000
OVS	25,000

PA 06-11, An Act Concerning Sexual Assault (S.B. 439)

PASSED, effective October 1, 2006

This law expands the crime of sexual assault to include circumstances when the actor engages in, causes, or forces another to submit to sexual contact by emitting any substance from their intimate parts.

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S.B. 445, An Act Concerning Emergency Health Care for Sexual Assault Victims

FAILED. The Public Health Committee held a public hearing on this bill, but it did not call it for a vote. This bill would have required licensed health care facilities to provide each victim of sexual assault: medically and factually accurate and objective information relating to emergency contraception; inform the victim of its availability, use and efficacy; and, dispense it to the victim upon request.

S.B. 443, An Act Concerning Domestic Violence

FAILED. The Judiciary, Public Safety and Security Committees, and the Senate voted favorably on this bill. The House debated the bill and passed it temporarily; it did not get recalled before the close of session.

This bill would have specified nonfinancial conditions that police officers could set when releasing someone arrested for a family violence crime, and made the arrestee guilty of a crime with an increased penalty if the arrestee intentionally violated those conditions. It would also have allowed police officers to seize any electronic defense weapons that were in plain view or in the arrestee's possession.

Appropriations for Selected Programs Related to Violence Against Women

Program/Agency	FY 07	Adjustment	Difference
Forensic Sex Evidence Exam/Division of Criminal Justice	640,000	1,200,000	560,000
Rape Crisis/DPH	418,527	424,805	6,278

HEALTHCARE

MEDICAID AND STATE ADMINISTERED GENERAL ASSISTANCE (SAGA)

Medicaid provides access to vital health services at all stages of life, including acute and preventative care, pregnancy related services, pediatric, nursing home and long-term care. Medicaid covers approximately 90,000 parents and caretaker relatives of HUSKY A children. The vast majority of these are women. It also pays for 25% of births in Connecticut. SAGA provides health care for approximately 31,000 of Connecticut's poorest residents; 40% of the recipients are women (CT Department of Social Services enrollment data).

The following initiatives were proposed to strengthen HUSKY and SAGA in the Appropriations budget, S.B. 475 and H.B. 5595. Although the proposals were not passed in the original form, a few of the concepts were enacted.

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Restore Self-Declaration Of Income (S.B. 475, H.B. 5595, and the Appropriations budget)

CONCEPT PASSED, effective July 1, 2006. Although the original bill failed, the concept was passed in Section 49 of S.B. 703, An Act Requiring A Study Of State Social Services Institutions And Departments With Respect To The Expenditures Of Such Institutions And Departments And The Programs Administered Or Services Provided By Such Institutions And Departments

When accepting applicants for HUSKY, the Department of Social Services (DSS) must rely on income information provided by applicants, which is subsequently verified by DSS, unless DSS has reason to believe it is inaccurate or incomplete. This provision was eliminated in July 2005 and resulted in the loss of HUSKY coverage for 10,000 people.

Codify The Federal Early And Periodic, Diagnostic, And Treatment Services Program (EPSDT) (S.B. 475 and H.B. 5595)

CONCEPT PASSED, effective July 1, 2006. Although the original bill failed, the concept was passed in Section 49 of S.B. 703, An Act Requiring A Study Of State Social Services Institutions And Departments With Respect To The Expenditures Of Such Institutions And Departments And The Programs Administered Or Services Provided By Such Institutions And Departments

EPSDT is a package of pediatric Medicaid benefits for children. This codification is based on federal Medicaid law as it was on December 30, 2005, which will ensure that the benefits do not automatically change as federal law changes.

Restore Funding For Non-Emergency Medical Transportation For SAGA Participants (Appropriations budget)

CONCEPT PENDING

SAGA beneficiaries are required to seek medical care from federally-qualified health centers (FQHCs) and hospitals which means that they often have to travel long distances to see a doctor. The SAGA medical program did not provide non-emergency medical transportation to allow covered individuals to get to and from medical appointments. Funding was provided to restore non-emergency medical transportation.

Restore Continuous Eligibility For Children In HUSKY For One Year (S.B. 475, H.B. 5595, and the Appropriations budget)

FAILED

This would have minimized the amount of cycling in and out of HUSKY enrollment by allowing children to maintain coverage in HUSKY for up to one year from enrollment or renewal despite temporary income fluctuations. When it was eliminated in 2003 over 7,000 children lost HUSKY coverage.

Repeal Co-Pays and Premiums on Adults in HUSKY (S.B. 475 and H.B. 5595)

FAILED

The Department of Social Services may impose premiums and co-pays on HUSKY A adults with incomes between 100% and 150% of the federal poverty level (\$16,600 to

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\$24,900 a year for a family of three). Connecticut's recent experience with imposing higher cost sharing on HUSKY B children shows that cost sharing causes drops in enrollment, thereby keeping eligible working parents and caretaker relatives off the program.

Bill History:

- S.B. 475, *An Act Concerning Revisions to the HUSKY Plan, Part A and Part B*. The Human Services Committee voted favorably upon this bill and referred it to the Senate. The Senate referred it to the Appropriations Committee where it was not called for a vote. Some provisions were included in other bills (see above).
- H.B. 5595, *An Act Concerning the Healthy Kids Initiative*. The Insurance and Real Estate, Human Services, Appropriations, and Public Health Committees voted favorably on this bill. It was placed on the House Calendar; however, it was not called for a vote. Some provisions were included in other bills (see above).

<u>Program/Agency</u>	<u>FY 07</u>	<u>Adjustment</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Medicaid Administration/DPH	3,462,246	3,462,246	0
HUSKY Outreach/DSS	692,600	702,989	10,389
HUSKY Program/DSS	27,250,000	29,220,000	1,970,000
Medicaid/DSS	3,311,958,128	3,198,510,128	(113,448,000)
SAGA/DSS	152,596,519	154,020,496	1,423,977

PA 06-38, An Act Concerning Health Insurance Coverage for Breast Cancer Screening (sS.B. 422)

PASSED, effective October 1, 2006

This law requires certain individual and group health insurers to provide coverage for a comprehensive ultrasound screening if: a mammogram shows heterogeneous or dense breast tissue based on BI-RADS; or a woman is considered at an increased breast cancer risk because of family history, her own prior breast cancer history, positive genetic testing, or other indications determined by her physician.

H.B. 5233, An Act Increasing Funding For Breast And Cervical Cancer Detection And Screening

CONCEPT PASSED, effective upon passage. Although the original bill failed, additional funds were allocated in H.B. 5845, *An Act Requiring a Study of Budgeted State Agencies with Respect to the Expenditures and Revenues of Such Agencies*.

This law provides increased funding to the breast and cervical cancer detection and treatment program. Additionally, section 6 of sS.B. 317, *An Act Concerning Revisions to*

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Department of Public Health Statutes requires the screening program to provide clinical breast examinations, screening mammograms and pap tests, as recommended in the most current breast and cervical cancer screening guidelines established by the United States Preventative Services Task Force for the women's age and medical history.

H.B. 5234, An Act Concerning Use Of Tobacco Settlement Funds

CONCEPT PASSED, effective October 1, 2006. Although the original bill failed, the concept was passed in section 512 of s.S.B. 317, An Act Concerning Revisions to Department of Public Health Statutes.

This law requires the Department of Public Health to establish a comprehensive cancer plan for the state of Connecticut, within available appropriations. The plan must include the creation of a state-wide smoking cessation program targeting Medicaid recipients.

Appropriations for Selected Cancer Treatment Programs

Program/Agency	FY 07	Adjustment	Difference
Breast & Cervical Cancer Detection & Treatment/DPH	1,668,273	2,343,251	674,978
CT Cancer Partnership/DPH	0	5,500,000	5,500,000

PA 06-63, An Act Concerning Healthy Food and Beverages in Schools (s.S.B. 373)

PASSED, effective July 1, 2006

This law restricts the types of beverages that may be sold to students in school to milk, 100% fruit or vegetable juice, and water; and, limits portion sizes of all beverages, other than water, to 12 ounces. It also requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to set nutritional standards for food sold to students in schools, and provides a financial incentive for local and regional boards of education and charter schools, endowed academies, and interdistrict magnet schools to certify that their schools meet the SDE standards.

H.B. 5474, An Act Concerning Nurse Midwifery

CONCEPT PASSED, effective October 1, 2006. Although the original bill failed, the concept was passed in sections 37-40 of s.S.B. 317, An Act Concerning Revisions to Department of Public Health Statutes.

This law revises the nurse-midwife scope of practice and their relationship with physicians by expanding their scope to include all women's health care with a focus on family planning and gynecological needs of women, pregnancy, childbirth, the postpartum period and the care of newborns. It also requires a nurse-midwife to practice within a health care system and have a clinical relationship with obstetrician-gynecologist that provide for consultation, collaborative management, or referral as indicated by the patient's status, rather than the previous requirement to have written protocols and guidelines. The law also allows a graduate of a nurse-midwife program

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approved by the American College of Nurse Midwives to work without a license in a hospital or other setting for up to 90 days after graduation. Finally, the law requires that appointed nurse-midwives that advise the Department of Public Health Commissioner be licensed and practicing for at least five years, and must not be an officer of the Connecticut Chapter of the American College of Nurse Midwives.

sS.B. 103, An Act Concerning Expansion Of The State Funded Pilot Program Providing Personal Care Services For Persons Sixty-Five Years Of Age Or Older

CONCEPT PASSED, effective July 1, 2006. Although the original bill failed, the concept was passed in section 8 and 9 of S.B. 703, An Act Requiring A Study Of State Social Services Institutions And Departments With Respect To The Expenditures Of Such Institutions And Departments And The Programs Administered Or Services Provided By Such Institutions And Departments

This law increases the maximum number of participants from 150 to 250 in a state-funded “consumer-directed” personal care assistance (PCA) pilot program, which includes the CT Home Care Program. It also removes the upper age limit on the state’s Medicaid PCA waiver, to cover eligible disabled people age 18 or older, rather than just those between ages 18 and 64.

Program/Agency	FY 07	Adjustment	Difference
CT Home Care Program/DSS	50,180,000	50,588,000	408,000

H.B. 5639, An Act Concerning The Establishment Of A Council To Advise The Commissioner Of Social Services On Matters Relating To The Implementation And Operation Of The Medicare Part D Program

PASSED, effective upon passage

This law creates a 22-member council to advise the Department of Social Services on matters relating to the administration and implementation of the federal Medicare Part D program, which began January 1, 2006 and helps Medicare beneficiaries pay for their prescription drugs. The council must make legislative recommendations and annual reports to the General Assembly and may make recommendations to the state’s congressional delegation.

Program/Agency	FY 07	Adjustment	Difference
Medicare Part D Supplemental Needs Fund/DSS	0	5,000,000	5,000,000

PA 06-44, An Act Promoting the Physical Health Needs of Students (sS.B. 204)

PASSED, effective upon passage

This law requires the State Department of Education (SDE), by January 1, 2007, to develop guidelines to address the physical health needs of students in a comprehensive manner that coordinates services, including services provided by municipal parks and

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recreation departments, and provide copies to each local and regional board of education. Local and regional boards of education may adopt plans based on the SDE guidelines.

Appropriations for Selected Programs Related to Healthcare

Program/Agency	FY 07	Adjustment	Difference
ConnPACE/DSS (caseload reduction)	58,317,190	54,017,190	(4,300,000)
Community Health Services/DPH	6,088,296	6,679,621	591,325
Local & District Depts of Health/DPH	4,195,374	4,331,550	136,176
School-Based Health Clinics/DPH	6,646,760	7,676,462	1,029,702
Community Services Support for AIDS Victims/DPH	195,280	198,210	2,930
AIDS Services/DPH	4,597,121	4,664,690	67,569
AIDS Drug Assistance/DSS	6,036,352	606,678	(5,429,674)

The following bills failed:

H.B. 5821, An Act Concerning Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Services that are Gender Specific and Trauma-Informed

FAILED. The Judiciary Committee held a public hearing on this bill, but it did not call it for a vote.

sS.B. 200, An Act Concerning Gender Specific and Trauma-Informed Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Services

FAILED. The Select Committee on Children and Public Health Committee voted favorably on this bill and referred it to the Appropriations Committee where it did not get called for a vote.

These bills would have required that each behavioral health or substance abuse service provided by the state, or by a public or private health care provider under contract with the state, be gender specific and trauma-informed to comprehensively address the unique needs of the individuals receiving services. It would have required the Office of Policy Management, in collaboration with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Department of Correction, the Department of Children and Families and the Court Support Services Division to establish a competitive grant program to identify and encourage best practices in gender specific and trauma-informed treatment programs and services.

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S.B. 275, An Act Concerning the Availability of Medical Assistance Program Benefits for Pregnant Women

S.B. 278, An Act Concerning the Establishment of a Pilot Program to Provide Periodontal Services to Pregnant Women Under the Medicaid Program

FAILED. These bills were proposed in the Human Services Committee but were not granted a public hearing.

S.B. 275 would have required the Department of Social Services (DSS), in conjunction with the Healthy Start program, to develop a grant process that would have allowed pregnant women, with incomes less than 300% of the federal poverty level and no creditable health insurance, to access ancillary medical services, including ultrasounds, lab testing, and genetic testing. **S.B. 278** would have required DSS to establish a pilot program that would have allowed pregnant women who are Medicaid beneficiaries to receive periodontal services, including deep scaling and root planning.

H.B. 5637, An Act Concerning The Availability of Temporary Supplies of Brand Name Drugs

FAILED. The Human Services Committee voted favorably on this bill and referred it to the Appropriations Committee where it did not get called for a vote.

This bill would have allowed recipients of prescription drug benefits under the Medicaid, SAGA, and ConnPACE programs access to a temporary supply of a brand name prescription drug without prior authorization in emergency situations.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC HEALTH DISPARITIES

In Connecticut, the leading causes of death for women are major cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, chronic lower respiratory, and HIV/AIDS. There is a clear racial and ethnic disparity as African-American and Hispanic women are at a greater risk for these diseases than White women. The extent of the problem with Asian populations is unknown due to lack of sufficient data. Two common risk factors for all of the above mentioned diseases, except HIV/AIDS, are obesity and smoking. Several bills were raised that would have targeted many of these health issues.

S.B. 84, An Act Concerning A Uniform Data Collection and Management System for Racial and Ethnic Data

FAILED. This bill was proposed in the Public Health Committee but not granted a public hearing.

This bill would have provided funding to the Office of Multicultural Health for the purpose of gathering and coordinating health data on racial and ethnic populations across all state agencies.

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sS.B. 423, An Act Requiring a Study of Health Insurance Coverage for Persons with Diabetes

FAILED. Although the Insurance and Real Estate Committee voted favorably on this bill, the Senate recommitted it to the Insurance and Real Estate Committee.

This bill would have required the General Assembly to convene a working group, including the Insurance Commissioner, to study the benefits provided to persons with diabetes. The study would have included an analysis of the coinsurance provision with respect to coverage of medically necessary equipment, including insulin pumps.

S.B. 481, An Act Concerning A Medicaid Home and Community-Based Service Waiver for Persons with Human Immunodeficiency Virus or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

FAILED. Although the Human Services and Appropriations Committees voted favorably on this bill, the Senate recommitted it to the Human Services Committee.

This bill would have allowed the Department of Social Services to apply for a Medicaid home and community waiver to provide services to up to 100 people with HIV/AIDS who are receiving and eligible for Medicaid in an institutional setting.

sS.B. 552, An Act Concerning Requiring a Study of Health Insurance Coverage for Medical Services and Treatment for Morbid Obesity and Prosthetic Devices

FAILED. The Insurance and Real Estate and Legislative Management Committees, and the Senate voted favorably on this bill. It was not called for a vote in the House.

sS.B. 579, An Act Concerning Health Insurance Coverage for Medical Services and Treatment for Morbid Obesity

FAILED. The Public Health Committee voted favorably on this bill and referred it to the Insurance and Real Estate Committee who had the same bill in Committee (S.B. 552 above).

These bills would have required individual and group health insurance policies to provide coverage for medically necessary expenses associated with the diagnosis and treatment of morbid obesity, including bariatric surgery and associated physician office visits, health and behavior assessments, nutrition education, patient self-management education and training and therapeutic exercises.

H.B. 5791, An Act Establishing A Teen Body-Wise Pilot Program

FAILED. The motion to vote this bill out of committee failed in the Public Health Committee.

This bill would have established a pilot program to help teenage girls develop and maintain a healthy relationship with food, a positive body image and solid self-esteem.

ECONOMIC SECURITY/PAY EQUITY

sH.B. 5024, An Act Concerning the Workforce Readiness of the Jobs First Program Participants

CONCEPT PASSED, effective upon passage. Although the original bill failed, funds were allocated for TANF Job Reorganization in H.B. 5845, An Act Requiring a Study of Budgeted State Agencies with Respect to the Expenditures and Revenues of Such Agencies.

This bill would have required the Labor Department to implement pilot education and vocational education programs to enhance the employability of participants in the Jobs First program. The pilot program would have provided education in basic skills, included but not limited to, English as a second language, literacy and numeracy programs, and high school completion and GED programs. The new funds appropriated for TANF Job Reorganization are intended to expand such programs.

Program/Agency	FY 07	Adjustment	Difference
TANF Job Reorganization/DOL	0	6,500,000	6,500,000

sH.B. 5251, An Act Concerning Recommendations of the Child Poverty Council Related to Job Training and Child Wellness

PASSED, effective July 1, 2006

This law permits the Office of Workforce Competitiveness to establish a pilot program giving parents access to training to develop skills they need to get and keep jobs. The program is for those with children under 18 who qualify for, but are not receiving, federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families benefits. It also requires the Departments of Social Services, Public Health, and Mental Health and Addiction Services to disseminate information about services provided by the state's Nurturing Family Network.

sS.B. 455, An Act Concerning the Early Childhood Education Workforce

PASSED, effective July 1, 2006

This law requires the Department of Higher Education to develop ways to expand the capacity of early childhood education teacher programs. It also requires the Department to collaborate with other agencies to define training requirements and competencies for the early childhood education field, and develop a database on early childhood education worker supply and qualifications.

S.B. 603, An Act Providing Funds for the Individual Development Account (IDA) Program

CONCEPT PASSED, effective upon passage. Although the original bill failed, funds were allocated in H.B. 5845, An Act Requiring a Study of Budgeted State Agencies with Respect to the Expenditures and Revenues of Such Agencies.

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This law would ensure the continued administration of the Connecticut IDA program and further development of private funding and federal match sources.

Program/Agency	FY 07	Adjustment	Difference
IDA/DOL	0	250,000	250,000

PA 06-102, An Act Concerning Family And Medical Leave For Foster Parents Who Are State Employees, Services For Individuals Eighteen Years Of Age And Older In The Care And Supervision Of The Commissioner Of Children And Families, Permanency Plans For Children, And Employment Accommodations For Members Of The General Assembly (S.H.B. 5011)

PASSED, effective October 1, 2006

Section 1 of this law allows permanent state employees to take up to four weeks of unpaid leave annually to care for a seriously ill foster child.

Appropriations for Selected Programs Related to Economic Security

Program/Agency	FY 07	Adjustment	Difference
CETC/OWC	2,179,237	2,096,139	(83,098)
Jobs Funnel/OWC	1,000,000	1,000,000	0
Career Ladder Pilots/OWC	500,000	500,000	0
Workforce Investment Act/DOL	27,287,659	27,287,659	0
Jobs First Employment/DOL	16,188,098	16,088,098	(100,000)
21 st Century Skills Training Program	0	1,000,000	1,000,000
Apprenticeship Program/DOL	266,176	516,176	250,000
TANF/DSS (caseload reduction)	131,818,117	120,433,712	(11,384,405)
Safety Net Services/DSS	1,518,870	1,541,653	22,783
Community Services- to local/DSS	83,823	85,080	1,257
Child Care -TANF/CCDBG/DSS	69,502,965	71,220,228	1,717,263
Child Day Care/DSS	6,940,400	5,699,579	(1,240,821)
Child Day Care-to local/DSS	3,521,152	4,918,896	1,397,744
Day Care Projects/DSS	465,353	465,353	0
School Readiness/DSS	4,088,270	5,449,594	1,361,324
Subsidized Assisted Living Demonstration/DECD	1,445,400	1,445,400	0
Housing Assistance & Counseling Program/DECD	588,903	588,903	0
Transitional Rental Assistance/DSS	1,163,412	1,180,863	17,451
Housing/Homeless Services/DSS	26,735,627	29,227,182	2,491,555
Housing/Homeless Services- to local/DSS	668,567	663,075	(5,492)

The following bills failed:

SS.B. 22, An Act Concerning Family and Medical Leave for Employees of Municipalities

FAILED. The Labor and Public Employees Committee voted favorably on this bill. The Senate referred it to the Appropriations Committee where it did not get called for a vote.

S.B. 23, An Act Concerning Family and Medical Leave for State Employees

FAILED. Although the Labor and Public Employees and Appropriations Committees voted favorably on this bill, the Senate recommitted it to the Labor and Public Employees Committee.

S.B. 23 would have allowed full-time state employees to use up to two weeks of their accrued paid sick leave for the birth or adoption of a child, or the serious illness of the employee or the employee's child, spouse or parent. **S.B. 22** would have extended these same state provisions to municipal employees who are currently covered under the federal FMLA law.

H.B. 5281, An Act Concerning Credit in the State Employees Retirement System for Prior State Service

FAILED. The Labor and Public Employees Committee voted favorably on this bill and referred it to the Appropriations Committee where it did not get called for a vote.

This bill would have allowed any former member of the state employees retirement system to receive retirement credit if: the person was previously employed by the state, left state service for a period longer than they were employed, and then subsequently returned to state service.

SS.B. 676, An Act Concerning Revenues of the State

FAILED. Although the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee voted favorably on this bill, the Senate recommitted it to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee.

Section 5 of this bill would have provided a state earned income tax credit (EITC) equal to 10% of the federal EITC for eligible low-income working families.

S.B. 479, An Act Concerning Revisions to the Temporary Family Assistance Program

FAILED. The Human Services Committee voted favorably on this bill and referred it to the Appropriations Committee where it did not get called for a vote.

This bill would have exempted persons with limited ability to work due to a medical impairment from time-limited benefit requirements; revised criteria for the six-month extensions of temporary family assistance benefits; eliminated the family cap provision which reduces the benefit level received by an otherwise eligible family; and, extended safety net services to families who are earning below the payment standard when they reach their time limit.

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H.B. 5533, An Act Concerning Transitional Rental Assistance

FAILED. The Human Services Committee voted favorably on this bill and referred it to the Appropriations Committee where it did not get called for a vote.

This bill would have provided the Department of Social Services with flexibility in the administration of the transitional rental assistance program to ensure that it continued to serve those families with earnings sufficient to make a successful transition from Temporary Family Assistance to self-sufficiency.

sS.B. 480, An Act Concerning Child Care

FAILED. The Human Services Committee voted favorably on this bill and referred it to the Appropriations Committee where it did not get called for a vote.

This bill would have increased the reimbursement rates to child care centers to achieve parity between funding levels for state-funded centers and school readiness programs.

sH.B. 5507, An Act Concerning Eligibility and Reimbursement Under the Care4Kids Program

FAILED. The Select Committee on Children, and the Human Services and Appropriations Committees voted favorably on this bill. It did not get called for a vote in the House.

This bill would have increased the reimbursement rates to child care centers, and increased applicant income eligibility standards to 75% of the state median income.

WOMEN AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

sH.B. 5494, An Act Concerning Authorizing Bonds of the State for Grants to Microenterprises

CONCEPT PENDING. Although the original bill failed, the concept will be considered in the bonding package. A special session will be called to address the bonding package,

sH.B. 5493, An Act Establishing a Pilot Microloan Program for Microenterprises (A)

PASSED, effective July 1, 2006

These laws direct the Department of Community and Economic Development to grant funds to the Community Development Fund to assist microenterprises. **H.B. 5494** provides funding of \$500,000 to a microenterprise support organization to implement H.B. 5493. A microenterprise is defined as a new or existing business with ten or fewer employees and annual gross revenues of less than \$500,000, including home-based and owner-operated businesses. **H.B. 5493** establishes a pilot program to work with non-profits to help microenterprises gain access to technical and financial resources.

PA 06-83, An Act Concerning Jobs for the Twenty-First Century (S.B. 702)

PASSED, effective July 1, 2006

Sections 6 through 8 of this law address issues of concern to microenterprises. It defines a micro business as a business that is independently owned and operated and employs

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less than 50 full-time employees or has gross annual sales of less than \$5 million. It also creates an Office of Business Advocate, with offices in the Office of Policy and Management, to serve as an information clearing house on public and private business assistance programs, and identify and contact micro and small business that could benefit from these programs.

sH.B. 5050, An Act Concerning the State Set-Aside Program

FAILED. The Government Administration and Elections and Planning and Development Committees voted favorably on this bill. The House referred it to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee where it was not called for a vote.

This bill would have made several changes to the state small and minority business set-aside program, including requiring certain agencies to explain how it would meet its set-aside program goals, changing the definition of small contractor, requiring an explanation when a set aside contractor employs a subcontractor who is ineligible for the program, and requiring awarding authorities to send notices of alleged set-aside violations to the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities. It would have also required substantial subcontractors to prequalify with the Department of Administrative Services before they performed work on a state or municipal construction contract. Finally, it would have prohibited the state from contracting with corporations that receive a tax benefit as a result of reincorporating outside of the United States.

H.B. 5779, An Act Increasing the Availability of Health Insurance for Small Businesses

FAILED. The Insurance and Real Estate and Government Administration and Elections Committees voted favorably on this bill. The House referred it to the Appropriations Committee where it was not called for a vote.

This bill would have reduced health insurance costs for employers who employ no more than 50 employees. It would have also eliminated an employer's responsibility to pay group health insurance premiums for employees who were terminated or voluntarily terminated their employment upon the effective date of termination.

Appropriations for Selected Programs Related to Women and Business Development

Program/Agency	FY 07	Adjustment	Difference
Small Business Innovation Research Initiative/OWC	250,000	250,000	0
CT Research Institute/DECD	0	500,000	500,000
Small Business Incubator Program/DECD	0	1,000,000	1,000,000
Entrepreneurial Centers/DECD	142,500	142,500	0
Microloans/DECD	0	50,000	50,000

FAMILY LAW

sH.B. 5536, An Act Concerning the Relocation of Parents Having Custody of Minor Children
PASSED, effective October 1, 2006

This law requires parents who relocate or plan to relocate with a child to prove that the relocation is in the child's best interest. It also codifies a nonexclusive list of factors family courts must consider when the non-relocating parent seeks to block the move due to its significant impact on an existing parenting plan.

H.B. 5599, An Act Concerning the Assignment of Property and the Award of Alimony Upon Dissolution of Marriage, Legal Separation or Annulment

FAILED. The Judiciary Committee held a public hearing on this bill, but it did not call it for a vote.

This bill would have eliminated the causes for an annulment, dissolution of marriage or legal separation as factors to be considered by the court in making an assignment of property or an award of alimony.

H.B. 5600, An Act Concerning Parenting Time and Parental Responsibility with Respect to the Custody of a Minor Child

FAILED. The Judiciary Committee held a public hearing on this bill, but it did not call it for a vote.

This bill would have provided that there shall be no presumption awarding substantially disproportionate parenting time and responsibility to one parent, where both parents are capable and seeking substantially equal or greater parenting time and responsibility.

CIVIL RIGHTS

PA 06-115, An Act Concerning Bullying Policies in Schools and Notices Sent to Parents or Legal Guardians (sH.B. 5563)

PASSED, effective July 1, 2006

This law expands the definition of bullying to include overt acts directed at another student with the intent to harass and incidents that occur on a school bus. It also enhances schools' obligations to tell students how to report bullying, and requires interventions for students who repeatedly bully or are bullied.

sH.B. 5504, An Act Concerning A Safe Learning Environment for Children and Youth

FAILED. The Select Committee on Children and the Education Committee voted favorably on this bill and referred it to the Appropriations Committee where it was not called for a vote.

This bill would have examined the effectiveness of school responses to bullying, established a state ombudsperson to resolve complaints relating to bullying, and established grants to create safe learning environments in schools.

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H.B. 5597, An Act Concerning Discrimination

FAILED. The Judiciary Committee voted favorably on this bill. It was not called for a vote in the House.

This bill would have made gender identity or expression a protected class under state anti discrimination laws. Specifically it would have prohibited discrimination in employment, public accommodations, the sale or rental of housing, the granting of credit, urban homesteading, public schools, board of education, public libraries, and utility providers. It would have also given the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities jurisdiction to investigate complaints of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression against students by public schools.

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

sS.B. 66, An Act Concerning the Severability of the Provisions of the Campaign Finance Reform Legislation

PASSED, effective upon passage

This law eliminates the circumstances under which the Campaign Finance Reform Law (PA 05-5, October 25 Special Session) would become unenforceable. Previously, if a court issued a stay of the Citizens' Election Fund (CEF) account for 72 hours, the entire law would have been rendered void. Under this law PA 05-5 would only become inoperable if a court holds any of the program's provisions unconstitutional and permanently bars expenditures from the CEF.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONS

PA 06-119, An Act Concerning the Department of Correction (H.B. 5612)

PASSED, effective July 1, 2006

Section 1 of this law requires that \$350,000 of the telephone revenues from the contract for pay phone services for inmates be used to expand inmate educational services and reentry programs. Section 4 repeals a statute (C.G.S. §18-62) that required that men and women be confined and kept separately.

H.B. 5699, An Act Concerning the Implementation of Certain Requirements Protecting Children and Families with Services Needs

CONCEPT PASSED, effective upon passage. Although the original bill failed, the concept was passed in Section 42 of S.B. 703, An Act Requiring A Study Of State Social Services Institutions And Departments With Respect To The Expenditures Of Such Institutions And Departments And The Programs Administered Or Services Provided By Such Institutions And Departments

This law creates the Family with Service needs (FWSN) Advisory Board to monitor and advise the Department of Children and Families and Judicial department in developing

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and providing services, including those less restrictive than detention or residential placement, to girls age 15 and under who have committed status offenses (truancy or running away). The Board must submit written recommendations to the Legislature and Judicial department by December 31, 2007 on the status of program development and implementation. The Board will dissolve after submission of its report.

Appropriations for Selected Programs Related to Criminal Justice and Corrections

Program/Agency	FY 07	Adjustment	Difference
Inmate Medical Services/DOC	86,058,454	90,677,037	4,618,583
Mental Health AIC/DOC	0	500,000	500,000
Aid Paroled & Discharged Inmates/DOC	9,500	9,500	0
Alternative Incarceration Program/Judicial	42,862,613	44,205,802	1,343,189
Community Support Services/DOC	28,145,968	30,788,588	2,642,620
Juvenile Justice Outreach Services /DCF	4,657,759	11,154,287	6,496,528
Community Kidcare/DCF	22,914,581	24,190,985	1,276,404
Juvenile Alt Incarceration/Judicial	21,573,626	24,642,342	3,068,716
Juvenile Justice Centers/Judicial	3,107,235	3,132,245	25,010
Youthful Offender Services/Judicial	0	1,405,089	1,405,089

PCSW Testimony

PCSW submitted oral or written testimony on the following **80** bills or issues before 14 legislative committees indicated below:

Budgetary Matters

- H.B. 5007, AA Making Adjustments to the Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2007 – Appropriations
 - The Department of Labor
 - The Office of Workforce Competitiveness
 - The Department of Community and Economic Development
 - The Department of Public Health
 - The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
 - The Department of Social Services

Civil Rights

- S.B. 699, AAC Recognition of Foreign Contracts – Judiciary
- H.B. 5504, AAC A Safe Learning Environment for Children and Youth – *Select Committee on Children*
- H.B. 5597, AAC Discrimination - Judiciary

Criminal Justice and Corrections

- H.B. 5612, AAC the Department of Correction – Judiciary
- H.B. 5651, AA Adopting the Recommendations of the Report of the Commission on Prison and Jail Overcrowding – Judiciary
- H.B. 5548, AAC School Reporting of Bullying Incidents – Education
- H.B. 5699, AAC the Implementation of Certain Requirements Protecting Children and Families with Services Needs – Judiciary
- H.B. 5700, AAC Justice for all Children - Judiciary

Economic Security and Pay Equity

- S.B. 22, AAC Family and Medical Leave for Employees of Municipalities – *Labor and Public Employees*
- S.B. 23, AAC Family and Medical Leave for State Employees – *Labor and Public Employees*
- S.B. 146, AAC the Establishment of Pilot Programs that Promote College Education for Low-Income Students – *Human Services*
- S.B. 147, AA Creating an Earned Income Credit Against the Personal Income Tax – *Human Services*

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- S.B. 203, AA Implementing Recommendations of the Child Poverty Council Concerning Educational Activities and Eligibility Under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program – *Select Committee on Children*
- S.B. 297, AAC the Use of General Fund Budget Surplus for the Housing Trust Fund – *Select Committee on Housing*
- S.B. 357, AA Increasing Funding for Rental Assistance and Supportive Services for Elderly and Disabled Persons – *Select Committee on Housing*
- S.B. 455, AAC the Early Childhood Education Workforce – *Higher Education and Employment Advancement*
- S.B. 463, AAC Family and Medical Leave for State Employees for the Serious Illness of a Child – *Labor and Public Employees*
- S.B. 476, AAC the Supportive Community Housing Pilot Project for Recipients of Temporary Family Assistance – *Human Services*
- S.B. 479, AAC Revisions to the Temporary Family Assistance Program – *Human Services*
- S.B. 480, AAC Child Care – *Human Services*
- S.B. 603, AA Providing Funds for the Individual Development Account (IDA) Program – *Appropriations*
- H.B. 5024, AAC the Workforce Readiness of the Jobs First Program Participants – *Higher Education and Employment Advancement*
- H.B. 5107, AAC the Beyond Shelter Program – *Select Committee on Housing*
- H.B. 5108, AAC the Rental Assistance Program – *Select Committee on Housing*
- H.B. 5251, AAC Recommendations of the Child Poverty Council Related to Job Training and Child Wellness – *Select Committee on Children*
- H.B. 5252, AAC Physical Education in Schools – *Select Committee on Children*
- H.B. 5281, AAC Credit in the State Employees Retirement System for Prior State Service – *Labor and Public Employees*
- H.B. 5366, AA Providing Funds to the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority for the Implementation of the Mortgage Assistance Program for Low or Moderate Income Families – *Select Committee on Housing*
- H.B. 5496, AAC the Establishment of a State-Wide Money Management Program that Shall Assist Low-Income Elderly and Disabled Persons – *Select Committee on Aging*
- H.B. 5507, AAC Eligibility and Reimbursement Under the Care4Kids Program – *Select Committee on Children*
- H.B. 5827, AAC the Purchase of Credit for Retirement Purposes Under the State Employees Retirement System – *Appropriations*

Family Law

- H.B. 5599, AAC the Assignment of Property and the Award of Alimony Upon Dissolution of Marriage, Legal Separation or Annulment – *Judiciary*
- H.B. 5600, AAC Parenting Time and Parental Responsibility with Respect to the Custody of a Minor Child – *Judiciary*

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Healthcare

- S.B. 103, AAC Expansion of the State Funded Pilot Program Providing Personal Care Services for Persons Sixty Five Years of Age or Older – *Select Committee on Aging*
- S.B. 145, AAC the Annual Report Submitted by the Commissioner of Social Services to the General Assembly – *Human Services*
- S.B. 148, AAC Legislative Review and Approval of Waiver Applications Submitted by the Commissioner of Social Services to the Federal Government – *Human Services*
- S.B. 200, AAC Gender Specific and Trauma-Informed Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Services – *Select Committee on Children*
- S.B. 202, AAC School Breakfast Programs – *Select Committee on Children*
- S.B. 204, AA Promoting the Physical, Mental, Social and Emotional Health Needs of Children – *Select Committee on Children*
- S.B. 347, AAC the Availability of Community-Based Services Under the Connecticut Home-Care Program for the Elderly – *Select Committee on Aging*
- S.B. 381, AAC Healthy Food and Beverages in Schools- *Education*
- S.B. 386, AAC Revisions to the Office of Health Care Access Statutes – *Public Health*
- S.B. 409, AA Establishing the Nutmeg Health Partnership Program - *Insurance and Real Estate*
- S.B. 422, AAC Health Insurance Coverage for Breast Cancer Screening - *Insurance and Real Estate*
- S.B. 423, AA Increasing Health Insurance Coverage for Persons with Diabetes - *Insurance and Real Estate*
- S.B. 462, AAC a Fair Share Health Care Surcharge – *Labor and Public Employees*
- S.B. 475, AAC Revisions to the Husky Plan, Part A and Part B – *Human Services*
- S.B. 477, AAC the Availability of Optional Services Under the Medicaid Program – *Human Services*
- S.B. 478, AAC Revisions to the State-Administered General Assistance Program – *Human Services*
- S.B. 481, AAC A Medicaid Home and Community Service Waiver for Persons with Human Immunodeficiency Virus or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome – *Human Services*
- S.B. 552, AAC Health Insurance Coverage for Medical Services and Treatment for Morbid Obesity - *Insurance and Real Estate*
- S.B. 579, AAC Health Insurance Coverage for Medical Services and Treatment for Morbid Obesity – *Public Health*
- H.B. 5192, AAC the Availability of Personal Care Assistance Services as an Optional Service Under the Medicaid Program – *Human Services*
- H.B. 5233, AA Increasing Funding for Breast and Cervical Cancer Detection and Screening – *Public Health*
- H.B. 5474, AAC Nurse Midwifery – *Public Health*
- H.B. 5595, AAC the Healthy Kids Initiative - *Insurance and Real Estate*
- H.B. 5636, AAC Revisions to the ConnPACE Program – *Human Services*
- H.B. 5637, AAC the Availability of a Temporary Supply of a Brand Name Prescription Drug in Emergency Situations – *Human Services*

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- H.B. 5641, AAC Revisions to the Medicaid Program – *Human Services*
- H.B. 5642, AAC Programs Administered by the Department of Social Services – *Human Services*
- H.B. 5791, AA Establishing a Teen Body-Wise Pilot Program – *Public Health*
- H.B. 5821, AAC Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Services That Are Gender Specific and Trauma-Informed - *Judiciary*

Political Participation

- H.B. 5610, AAC Revisions to the Comprehensive Campaign Finance Laws – *Government Administration and Elections*

Violence Against Women

- S.B. 153, AAC the Interagency Task Force on Trafficking In Persons – *Judiciary*
- S.B. 154, AA Implementing the Recommendations of the Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons – *Judiciary*
- S.B. 168, AAC the Interagency Task Force on Trafficking Persons – *Public Safety*
- S.B. 439, AAC Sexual Assault – *Judiciary*
- S.B. 443, AAC Domestic Violence – *Judiciary*
- S.B. 445, AAC Emergency Health Care for Sexual Assault Victims – *Public Health*
- H.B. 5717, AA Requiring Acute Care Hospitals to Provide Forensic Nursing to Victims of Physical or Sexual Assaults – *Public Health*

Women and Business Development

- S.B. 428, AA Establishing a Tax Credit for Small Employers who Provide Health Insurance for their Employees - *Insurance and Real Estate*
- H.B. 5050, AAC the State Set-Aside Program – *Government Administration and Elections*
- H.B. 5493, AA Establishing a Pilot Microloan Program for Microenterprises – *Commerce*
- H.B. 5779, AA Increasing the Availability of Health Insurance for Small Businesses - *Insurance and Real Estate*

UNDERSTANDING THE BILL TRACKING PROCESS

Here is how the House and Senate bills are numbered:

Senate bills are numbered from 1 to 4999

House bills are numbered from 5001 to 9999

Resolutions are numbered starting from one and are the following types:

HR-House Resolution

HJ-House Joint Resolution

SR-Senate Resolution

SJ-Senate Joint Resolution

Here is how to research the legislation, see the text of the bill and find out its status.

If you have access to a computer:

If you know the bill number, you can go straight to the Connecticut General Assembly homepage at www.cga.ct.gov. Type the bill number in the "Quick Search" box. If you are looking for a resolution type in the two characters (ex. HR, HJ, SR, SJ) and the resolution number. A screen with the history of the bill will pop up. You can click on the bill to read the full text.

If you do not know the bill number, you can do a "Search by Subject" or a "Text Search." You can type in dates and/or phrases to find the bill you are looking for.

If you do not have access to a computer:

If you know the bill number, contact the Bill Information Room and request information. You can check for public hearings in *The Bulletin*, which is published daily during the week.

The Bill Information Room is in Vault 5 in the State Capitol; the telephone number is (860) 240-0555.

If you would like to contact your legislator by phone:

Senate Democrats: (860) 240-8600; 1-800-842-1420

Senate Republicans (860) 240-8800; 1-800-842-1421

House Democrats Leadership: (860) 240-8500; 1-800-842-1902

House Democrats Rank & File: (860) 240-8585; 1-800-842-8267

House Republicans Leadership (860) 240-8700; 1-800-842-1423

House Republicans Rank & File: (860) 240-8787; 1-800-842-8270

To contact your legislator by email:

firstname.lastname@cga.ct.gov